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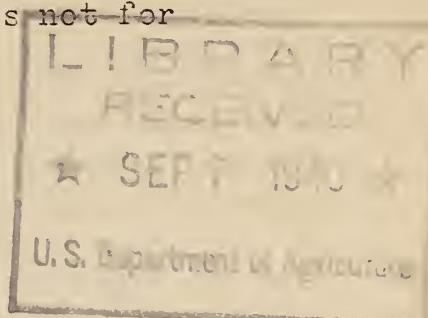


# SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others



September 3, 1940

## FROM SECRETARY WALLACE

Retiring from his Cabinet post to campaign for election to the Vice-Presidency, Secretary Wallace addressed the following to members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture:-

In leaving the Department, my mind turns to the time when my father came here in 1921 as Secretary. He believed, with some others, then as now, that Government workers were clock-watchers and chair-warmers.

His opinion changed. He told me he found clear-thinking workers, loyal, deeply devoted to their duties. They were efficient, with a well developed sense of their responsibilities as public servants to agriculture and the general welfare.

While I had the benefit of his change of mind and I had long been familiar with the Department's work in the field and in Washington before becoming Secretary in 1933, I too have had my eyes opened wider to the caliber of the Department's staff of men and women.

I leave with an abiding respect for the Department's workers at all levels, with admiration for their experience, ability and honesty. Leave-taking, after these years in which the Department has risen ably to challenge after challenge to the Nation and its agriculture, is no light and easy matter for me.

American agriculture was prostrate in 1933. The income of all farmers was at a record low. Land values crumbled. Debts

piled up. Foreclosures reached an alarming rate. Every farm family made sacrifices that meant lower and lower living standards. Too often these sacrifices, in which farm women and children suffered tragically, were in vain. In their futile efforts to keep up income to meet living expenses and other obligations in the face of falling prices, farmers were forced to exploit unmercifully their lands. They mined their soil to produce more and more to sell for less and less. Huge unsaleable surpluses were the result.

The condition of farmers was tragic; the condition of other groups of producers was desperate, too. Unemployment was widespread and businesses, small and large, felt the strait-jacket of depression. The climax was reached with the bank Holiday of March 1933, a black period that reached every community. Democracy was on trial. Other nations, defeated, sought their answer by turning to totalitarian government.

The triumph of democracy which followed was led by President Roosevelt, who courageously, wisely, showed the way, supported by an able and intelligent majority in Congress. The job of administering new laws, new instruments of our Government on the agricultural flank of the administration's drive out of the depths of the depression, fell on us in the Department. We had the loyal assistance of farmers in every state and the sincere cooperation of state and local agricultural institutions.

The Department's folks met their new responsibilities without flinching at the size of the job, without waste and confusion. To serve the farmers of America, to assist them by extending them the hand of Government cooperation, and to do it with speed, understanding and with good order and honesty, became the objective for which all of you worked hard. Working overtime, giving up holidays, you made sacrifices of the kind that are never headlined.

During my years with you the Department has broadened its services to the public, and especially for the farmer--and in the world in which we now live, it is clear that there are many problems, some not yet apparent, that remain and which will call for timely action.

Agencies we now have carrying on lines of work pioneered since 1933 include: the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the

Surplus Marketing Administration, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the Farm Security Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Rural Electrification Administration.

Responding to needs, some long ignored, others new, we have expanded substantially work of the Farm Credit Administration, the Forest Service, the Commodity Exchange Administration, and the research, program making, and regulatory activities. Changes have been made, some occasionally disturbing the routines of some of you, but they are bringing improved public service which we all have at all times as our common dominant objective.

Now that the Nation must direct much of its energy to defense, the Department has additional problems to meet. Not only is it contributing to military defense through its laboratories and services--it has a national responsibility to assist the Nation's agriculture to prepare for a variety of serious results growing out of the war.

Changes which we are undergoing in the world of today point to several significant needs in the Department of tomorrow. It will need far more, not less science. It will need more quickly than ever before to identify and classify changes in the world affecting this country and its agriculture--and to respond with plans, programs of action, and skillful administration and management. Democracy, to survive, must have its ablest people, clothed with adequate authority, to meet promptly and intelligently new forces set in motion by the totalitarian governments with their extreme centralization, their opportunism, and their capacity for mobilizing manpower and technology.

As we face forward in this uncertain period, the workers of the Department will need to be flexible in their outlook. With that flexibility it is vital to remember that there are certain eternal verities and these must be reconciled with the tremendous changes that are certain to come.

I am confident that the Department and all its workers--the administrators, the scientific workers, the rank and file of employees, who have all given their best while I have been in the Department--can respond to the new needs with the same earnest concern for agriculture and the general welfare that

has marked your efforts during my period with you.

H. A. WALLACE

A Note from HBB--

I think there must be no one in the Soil Conservation Service who has not taken pride in Henry Wallace. As Secretary of Agriculture, he has been many things to us--a fine, inspiring leader, a patient and considerate friend, a forthright, candid man who could say no as gently as he could say yes. I know I speak for all of us in wishing him health and happiness.

OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News: As the writer is an Area Records and Statistics clerk, the recent articles on reports that appeared in the Open Forum have been most interesting and it has been difficult to repress the urge to contribute to this discussion until the 1941 reporting procedure was issued by the Washington office. Now that all field offices have received Field Memorandum #937, it seems evident that an analysis of the reasons for the general disfavor with which reports are regarded by the field (in our opinion) is accurate and would be a contribution of some value to the Forum:

1. In spite of the recent move to eliminate reports and forms in this Service, we still have too many of each with too much duplication and unnecessary detail, and until this move bears fruit the field will remain sceptical.
2. We have changed most of our reporting procedure and our forms as regularly as a new fiscal year arrived. The latest procedure as outlined in memorandum #937 being a good example.
3. The field has had to depend upon a multitude of memoranda, letters and supplements, numbered and unnumbered, for a guide to our reporting procedure. Considering this, it is no puzzle to us why the field personnel have become hostile to the general idea of reports in the past and remain so to this day.

If the latest move to eliminate unnecessary reports, duplication of data and standardize forms becomes a reality our

problems in (1) will be solved.

We believe that everyone will agree with the general objectives presented in memorandum #937. However, some of the changes in forms and procedure seem unnecessary to attain these objectives and will only result in more confusion and duplication. It is these yearly changes that discourage the field when it is plain to see existing procedure could be amended to produce the same results. Also, two questions we are sure everyone would like answered are (1) why must there be any duplication whatsoever, and (2) why is it that year after year we receive new reporting instructions after July 1 instead of before when common sense tells us we should have these a month or two months before for efficient operation.

The answer to (3) is to discontinue issuing memoranda on reports as soon as possible. LET'S HAVE A HANDBOOK CONTAINING ALL RECORDS AND STATISTICS PROCEDURE. Surely it is apparent that a handbook with instructions on a certain report on a certain page will be superior to an unending stream of memoranda. We believe this difficulty has been a greater factor in turning the field against reports than the number of reports -- everyone simply became lost in the maze of instructions. Handbooks we have had on certain reports proved their value to the field, but that was many changes ago.

Signed: Maurice J. Horrell

#### LOST TIME FROM ACCIDENTS DECREASES

The number of man-days lost as a result of accident and injury in the combined CCC and SCS Operations units shows a remarkable decrease in time off due to accidents from 1936 to date.

The lost time through accidents for this year if it continues at the present rate will be only one-third what it was in 1936, according to Mr. H. C. Mesch, Head of the Safety Section.

Since there has been a steady decrease in days lost through accident or injury, it appears that the 1940 record will be very good. The following table showing the number of man-days lost bears out Mr. Mesch's predictions:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Man-days lost</u>
1936	242,950
1937	151,600
1938	120,150
1939	142,320
1940 (first six months)	44,670

It looks as though our supervisory personnel are becoming more and more safety minded.

#### CONFERENCE OF INFORMATION OFFICERS

Information officers of the Service will meet in Chicago, September 9 for a discussion of information policies in light of the war, inter-American relationships, and the soil conservation districts program.

In addition to the Regional Information Officers and representatives of the Washington Division of Information of the SCS, the conference will be attended by representatives of the Department Office of Information, the Information Divisions of nearly all other departmental action agencies, and the Extension Editors. Several Extension Soil Conservationists and State Coordinators are also expected to be present.

Anyone wishing to suggest information problems which might be considered at this conference is urged to communicate with G. A. Barnes, Division of Information, Washington.

#### CLASSIFIED NATIONAL DEFENSE JOBS OPEN TO UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

The following announcement from the Civil Service Commission will be of interest to our non-Civil Service employees who have been or are being furloughed or terminated because of reduction in force. Further details as to the procedure to be followed in submitting applications for placement on the Commission's Emergency Replacement List will be announced in a Field Memorandum in the next few days:

Unclassified employees who have held permanent Federal positions are now eligible for temporary appointments to classified positions in national defense agencies. Executive Order No. 8458 of June 27, 1940 authorizes the Commission to

establish an Emergency Replacement List of employees who meet all of the following requirements:

1. Employees without classified status who within 90 days are to be or who have been separated involuntarily, or who are furloughed involuntarily for more than 90 days or indefinitely from a permanent Federal position after January 1, 1940.
2. Employees who have had at least six months of Government experience prior to separation. (Relief or project workers, even though assigned to a Federal establishment, are ineligible.)
3. Employees who are unqualifiedly recommended by the head of the agency in which they were employed.

Applications must be received by the Commission through the head of the agency where last employed not later than 90 days from the date of the order or from the date of separation or furlough. Appointments will be made from the list to classified positions which are directly concerned with the national defense program. There are now 25 departments, bureaus and other units of the Federal Government listed by the Commission as national defense agencies.

Persons appointed from the list will not thereby acquire a classified status, but they will be eligible for administrative promotions in the same positions as well as for promotions to other national defense positions in the agency in which they are serving. They will not, however, be eligible for transfer to any other agency.

USDA GRADUATE SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 23

Registration for the first semester of the Washington USDA Graduate School should be completed before September 21. Classes start September 23, according to the Department catalog of courses just released.

Several fall semester courses will be taught by SCS staff members. Dr. Jay A. Bonsteel will teach a course in "Soil Conservation"; a course in "Visual Information" will be offered under the direction of Mr. Paul Bissell; Dr. A. E. Brandt will teach "Statistical Treatment of Experiments in the Plant and Animal Industries"; and Miss Sally M. Pease

will conduct a course "Vocabulary Building and Dictionary Study". "Climatology" under the direction of Dr. C. W. Thornthwaite will be offered in the spring semester.

#### EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING SERVICE

The Department of Agriculture offers a service unique among Government agencies. In order to provide authoritative information for its employees, responsible officials in the various bureaus and offices have been designated as Educational Counselors. These counselors, who have voluntarily assumed this added responsibility, are available by appointment for consultation regarding any problem concerning the further education of the members of their respective agencies.

Those who expect to undertake further education this fall and are not sure whether they have selected the proper courses, or how much they should undertake, may consult SCS Counselor, Dr. H. L. Buckardt, Head, Training Section, room 323 Standard Oil Building, extension 5352.

#### EXTENSION OF FIELD PERSONNEL AUTHORITY CONTEMPLATED

An extension of the delegated employment authority now exercised by Regional Conservators under Public No. 441 is contemplated. The extension of this authority will undoubtedly simplify and expedite the handling of certain types of personnel actions in the field (actions involving persons appointed to positions under the District System) and should lessen the time required to get additional personnel appointed and on the job.

Further details concerning the proposed extension of delegated authority cannot be announced at this time since the working arrangements are still under discussion with Department and Civil Service Commission officials, but as soon as full information is available, the change in procedure will be announced by appropriate field memoranda.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICED IN EARLY AMERICA

Soil and water conservation are not new in this country according to Dr. Guy R. Stewart, Asst. to the Chief of Research, who has been making studies of conservation practices in primitive

agriculture in the Southwest.

Last fall Dr. Stewart made observations and surveys of check-dam areas in Soda Canyon and of a primitive flood-water ditch at Mesa Verde National Park. The September and October issues of Scientific Monthly will carry articles on these studies.

Further studies to attempt to find the probable period of time that the conservation work was done at Mesa Verde were carried on by Dr. Stewart in July. Maurice Donnelly, leader of the Hillculture Project at Riverside, California worked with Dr. Stewart on the study of terracing and check-dam structures made there. According to observations made by Dr. Stewart, conservation work was probably undertaken most intensively in the latter portion of the Pueblo period of occupation, reaching its peak from 1276 to 1299, during the time of the great drought which probably ended Pueblo occupation at Mesa Verde.

Similar intensive studies were made by Dr. Stewart in the vicinity of Navajo Mountain, Arizona, where there was a large community that practiced wide-spread water retention and simple soil-saving methods.

Research was also carried on along the north rim of the Grand Canyon, and in the San Francisco Mountains near Sunset Crater. In the latter sections, examples of boulder checks apparently done to aid in wind-erosion control were examined.

In Walnut Canyon, near Flagstaff, Arizona, at the Chaves Pass ruin, and also near Montezuma Castle, examples of simple types of conservation work can still be observed.

The area office at Farmington, New Mexico is assisting Dr. Stewart in mapping certain areas.

#### A HERITAGE WE GUARD

The latest Soil Conservation Service motion picture, entitled "A Heritage We Guard", has been released. It is a three-reel picture, requiring a half hour to show, and will be available in 35 millimeter, sound and 16 millimeter, sound. Prints may be ordered on Form AD-14 in the regular manner and will cost approximately \$60 for the larger size and about \$30 for the smaller one. It is not expected that silent prints will be available for some time.

The picture portrays conditions in the United States before it was settled and follows this with a historical review of settlement and early agriculture and a consideration of the effect of land abuse on wildlife resources.

The full story of the making of the picture will appear in the September issue of "Soil Conservation". The preview of "A Heritage We Guard" was held in Washington, August 28. All agencies and individuals interested in conservation were invited to see this picture, the style of which departs considerably from former Soil Conservation Service motion pictures.

FOREST SERVICE MOTION PICTURE  
RELEASES

The benefits to the cattle-grazing business of controlled grazing under the permit system as practiced on the National Forest is the subject of a new sound movie just released by the Forest Service. The picture, entitled "Blessings of Grass", was directed by Chas. McDonald of the Forest Service and narrated by Maurice Joyce of Soil Conservation Service.

Another recent release by the Forest Service is the sound picture "Vanishing Herds", a film about game management on the National Forests.

Both pictures are available in 16 and 35 millimeter prints.

E. L. CRANDALL RETIRES

Ernest L. Crandall, SCS photographer, retired in August after 35 years with the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Crandall was with the Bureau of Plant Industry from 1905 until his transfer to Soil Conservation Service as Chief Photographer in 1935.

In charge of the Bureau of Plant Industry Photographic laboratory, Mr. Crandall did most of the specialized plant photography for the Bureau. He not only was rated as one of the outstanding photographers in the Department, but gained wide recognition outside of the Department as a photographer of plant life, particularly wild flowers.

In 1924 he was selected to go to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico to handle the photographic work in connection with archaeological investigations of the Carnegie Institute.

In 1930, foreign members of the International Road Congress made quite an extended tour over a large part of the country under the auspices of the Bureau of Roads, and Mr. Crandall was detailed at the Bureau's request to go as official photographer.

In June, 1935, Mr. Crandall was appointed as Chief Photographer for the Soil Conservation Service. As such he designed and organized the existing laboratory facilities of the Service and inaugurated many policies and procedures governing photographic activities which are still in effect. In March 1937 he was assigned to photographic work for the Research Division at the Beltsville Experiment Station and remained in this capacity until his retirement.

Since the organization of the SCS, Mr. Crandall is the second employee to retire. The late Dr. A. J. Pieters of the Agronomy Division was the first.

SOIL CONSERVATION EXHIBIT  
WINS FIRST PRIZE

Pierce County, Wisconsin, climaxed 15 years of exhibiting in the county contest at the Wisconsin State Fair at Milwaukee by taking first place in the 1940 fair with a soil conservation exhibit. The County was awarded a plaque by the Milwaukee Journal, which sponsors the contest. The story published by the Journal with a picture of the exhibit said "Pierce County won on a display demonstrating its soil erosion work in miniature with running streams, photographs, placards, and attractively arranged neon lights."

H. G. Seyforth, Pierce County agent, prepared the exhibit with the assistance of T. R. Pattison, extension soil conservationist at Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He used model farms, charts, enlargements, and balopticon slides in his exhibit to defeat 19 other counties, his first top prize in 15 years. Some of the material was loaned to Mr. Seyforth by the Soil Conservation Service.

A CCC soil conservation camp, located at Ellsworth, has been working on Pierce County farms about 5 years, and the county is now organizing a soil conservation district.

PRINTERS' INK

"Farms the Rains Can't Take" by Kenneth Davis has been issued as Miscellaneous Publication 394. "Farmers of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois farm more than one-half of the grade-1 farm land in the United States, and a large share of the grade-2 land", according to Mr. Davis. The publication describes how this farm land has been used in the past and how it can best be used in the future for better crops and less loss of soil.

The August Journal of the American Society of Agronomy published an article by Averil B. Nielson, Assistant Range Examiner, Region 9, entitled "Management--A Cure for Overgrazed Range".

Colin A. Taylor, Assistant Regional Engineer, Region 10, writing in the August issue of Agricultural Engineering says: "The intent of this paper is to assemble the available information on transportation velocities and discuss the soil movement factor in relation to the design of furrow shapes and choice of grades in irrigation developments".

The same issue of Agricultural Engineering contains an article by C. L. Hamilton of the Washington Engineering Division, on "Terrace Maintenance". Mr. Hamilton feels that "many farmers think of terrace maintenance as extra work..., but ordinary terrace plowing should be considered a regular farm operation similar to seedbed preparation or the harvesting of crops."

An article entitled "Soil Conservation" by E. G. Holt, Chief of the Biology Division, appears in the July-August issue of American Wildlife.

"Stock-Water Developments, Wells, Springs, and Ponds", Farmers Bulletin 1859, by C. L. Hamilton and Hans G. Jepson, of the Washington Engineering Division is off the press. The bulletin deals with the requirements and development of stock-water supplies suitable for grazing areas.

The progress of land use planning committees and the type of problems they are tackling are discussed in an unnumbered publication entitled "Land Use Planning Under Way" prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in cooperation with other Bureaus. According to the publication, "70,000 farm men and women have organized themselves into community and county land use planning committees".

"Relative Infiltration and Related Physical Characteristics of Certain Soils", Technical Bulletin 729 by Free, Browning, and Musgrave, is a study "(1) to determine the relative rate of infiltration for important soils; (2) to ascertain what relations may exist between infiltration and certain physical properties of these soils; and (3) to explore the problem as a whole, searching for evidences of underlying basic principles and ascertaining directions future studies may take most profitably."

"Orchard Irrigation", by Samuel Fortier, Farmers Bulletin 1518, recently published is a revision of and supersedes Farmers Bulletin 882, entitled "Irrigation of Orchards".

"Use the Land and Save the Soil", unnumbered Soil Conservation Service publication is off the press.

The following project monographs are available in the Washington SCS Library:

- Col -3 Cherry Creek project, Castle Rock, Colorado.
- Ky-1 Massac Creek demonstration project, Paducah, Kentucky.
- Ky-2 Greasy Creek, Madisonville, Kentucky.
- La-2 Grand Cane Creek project, Mansfield, Louisiana.
- Oh-1 Salt Creek, Zanesville, Ohio.
- Oh-2 Muddy Fork project, Wooster, Ohio.
- Oh-3 Indian Creek demonstration project, Hamilton, Ohio.
- Tex-11 Hereford project, Hereford, Texas.

The wildlife of the nation has flourished thru the efforts of the CCC, Director J. J. McEntee stated in a talk over the Mutual network. The August 17 issue of Happy Days printed the text of Director McEntee's talk.

NEWS PRESENTATION

An interesting sidelight on the problem of soil-conservation education is noted in the memorandum issued by the Department, August 17. Discussing the news value of speeches and addresses made by Department officials, the Acting Director of Information singles out a soil-erosion educational campaign of the '20's as an "impressive example of long-time effectiveness of steady, consistent and intelligent support of a major policy even when it was not 'hot news'". The memorandum continues, "For years the Press Service issued many spot releases in support of Doctor Bennett's campaign of education. The output at times seemed out of proportion to its effect in the press, but when dust storms and floods made the issue acute -- made erosion 'hot news' -- the response was gratifying...The public had learned something of the situation and editors had learned even more, and the campaign progressed far more satisfactorily in the '30's than it could have without the patient groundwork of the continuing campaign of basic information in the '20's."

This presents the fact that even though information on the progress of the soil conservation districts is not "hot news", there is a great deal of value in steady hammering away to get results in the long run.

SHANE MacCARTHY DETAILED TO DEFENSE COMMISSION

Shane MacCarthy, Chief of the Division of Service Operations, has, at the request of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, been detailed to the National Defense Commission. Mr. C. Gordon Kinney will act as Chief of the Division of Service Operations during Mr. MacCarthy's absence.

PROTECTION FROM POISON IVY

A vanishing cream that gives protection against poison ivy has been developed by scientists of the Public Health Service and the National Institute of Health, according to the Scientific American, September. The cream is made by adding 10 percent sodium perborate, or 2 percent potassium periodate, to vanishing cream. Tests showed that the cream protects against both poison-ivy extract, which is at least 30 times as powerful as any poison ivy leaf, and against the leaves and stems of the plant itself.

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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Benton, Miss Mildred

September 16, 1940

## YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Acting once again as your Washington Correspondent, the Chief says:

The other day I had occasion to see a very interesting map. In a small area of the Great Plains this map showed the approximate location and size of all operating units. At the bottom of the map, was shown the minimum acreage required for successful farm operation in the area. Only one of the existing operating units had even so much as this minimum acreage requirement.

This map illustrated to me as well as anything I have seen lately, the need for our LU program. Other reports have been coming in recently that indicate the success with which land purchase has been used to replace a wasteful and soil-depleting agriculture with a productive and soil-conserving use of the land.

These reports on LU projects have a valuable function right now in emphasizing that the basic purpose of this part of our program is not to purchase land, but to improve the use and management of land in order that conservation practices may be applied. We don't buy land in order to own it, but in order to improve its use, and very often the use of adjacent land still in private ownership. It is put in Government ownership only because in certain particular sections private ownership has proved incapable of using the land safely and wisely any longer. So large a part of the LU funds and activities have necessarily been applied to land purchase that people unfamiliar with the program have failed to recognize this real objective of the LU projects.

That the LU program and its relation to soil conservation are being better understood, however, can be seen from the number of requests that are coming in for submarginal land purchases in soil conservation districts. I believe that in a great many districts it may be necessary to purchase some of the most abused and depleted lands, and restore them to constructive use through the LU program, if we are to control soil erosion. This fact is being reflected in the budget requests that are being made for LU work for the next fiscal year.

I hope every one in the Service will feel he has a share in all phases of the program, and will work toward better understanding and coordination of all our work, whether he is technically attached to LU, district work, water facilities, or any other field activity. During the past year and a half most of us, regardless of which branch of the Service we have worked in, have become more and more familiar with the different types of work that the Service is now carrying on in its broad program to stabilize and improve the use of our agricultural land. One of the major responsibilities facing the Service is to improve constantly the effective coordination of the various "tools" at our disposal in working out complete and adequate land programs.

#### OPEN FORUM

Dear Editor:

This is a letter to the OPEN FORUM about the OPEN FORUM and at the very start I want to say that it is a fine thing when you have to take to writing letters to yourself to keep the OPEN FORUM going. I have been wondering why the FORUM hasn't been flooded with letters from people in the Service. After all it is a place where anyone can take issue, disagree, plug his pet idea, air his favorite peeve, and get away with it. No holds barred, no questions asked. When we started the FORUM we braced ourselves for the explosion, grabbed something solid and hung on for dear life, and what happened? There was hardly a sputter.

So only one conclusion seems possible. There just isn't anything to squawk about, everything is hunky-dory. The boys who get mud on their boots have no complaints about the boys who get a shine on their pants, and vice-versa. There are plenty of shoulders but not a one with a chip on it.

Of course, it may be that nobody has an idea, but the less said about that the better!

And then it might be that nobody has time to be writing letters of complaint. Maybe so, but I wonder what we'd get if we could tap the grape-vine. Anyway, I wish you could find someway to drum up a little enthusiasm, get rid of the stage fright or whatever it is and make the FORUM what we had hoped it would be.

Editor

SECRETARY WICKARD SAYS

Speaking before the Fruit Belt Cooperative in Cassopolis, Michigan last week, Secretary Wickard said:

"This nation of ours can take comfort in the fact that its agriculture is prepared through the national farm program. The program was developed by farmers and their representatives in Congress and their public servants in the executive part of Government in order to deal with the emergency in the early 1930's. Now farmers have learned how to operate the flexible machinery that they have developed. With it they can meet any emergency and are meeting the defense emergency."

FINAL DECISION REACHED  
BY AGRICULTURE, INTERIOR

A final decision has been reached regarding the transfer of funds and personnel to the Department of Interior under Reorganization Act IV, and both Departments are now working out details of the transfer of funds, personnel, and equipment.

It is expected that several weeks' time will be necessary to perfect details to a point where the Department of Interior can take over activities, jurisdiction, and direction of the work and personnel. By agreement with the Department of Interior, the Service will carry on normal activities until such time as active direction can be transferred.

LAND-GRANT COLLEGE QUESTIONNAIRE  
AGRICULTURE--NATIONAL DEFENSE

Results of a survey with regard to agriculture in relation to national defense, which was recently made by the Committee on Relationships of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, show that soil conservation is considered by the

colleges as an inherent part of national defense.

Answers to the series of questions, which have been summarized by Carl E. Ladd, Chairman of the Committee on Relationships of the Land-Grant College Association, are briefed in general terms as follows:

"An imposing majority of the Land-Grant Colleges of the United States agree that agricultural production should be maintained near present levels.

"The most commonly mentioned farm problems in relation to national defense are the conservation of natural resources; farm self-sufficiency; inefficiency of marketing, and distribution; possible scarcity and high costs of labor, motive power, feeds, fertilizers, and other supplies; and the low purchasing power of farm products.

"To meet these problems, it is suggested that educational work among farmers be continued and intensified. The soil conservation program should be continued and a campaign started to make farms more self-sufficient as to food and feed."

The report presents a long and diversified list of suggestions in answer to the questionnaire. Among the suggestions is one that emergency agricultural defense committees of farm people should be set up in each State.

Summary of replies submitted in answer to the question: What do you consider to be the important agricultural problems in relation to national defense? are as follows:

In the Northeast Region, out of 10 replies, conservation of soil and forest resources was listed sixth in importance by 3 states. In the South, conservation of soil and forest resources was listed second in importance by 6 states. In the North Central Region, 4 states considered conservation of soil and forest resources second in importance, while 3 of the Western States listed the problem of conservation of soil, range, and forest resources in fourth place.

For the entire United States, out of 40 problems listed, conservation of soil, range and forest resources was considered as of paramount importance by 16 states. Running second (15 states) was the lack of farm self-sufficiency as to food and

feed, and inefficiency and high cost of marketing and distribution. Inefficiency of production was named in replies from thirteen states as the most important agricultural problem in relation to national defense.

In answer to the question: What should be done to meet these problems? the replies were not sufficiently different from any section of the country to classify them by regions. The recommendations (39) were listed according to the total number of colleges suggesting them in Mr. Ladd's summary. Fifteen colleges suggested a continuation and intensification of educational work among farmers with emphasis on the needs of the defense program, and a number of suggestions were made as to how this could be done. Of special interest to Service personnel is the suggestion listed fourth in the list: "To continue the soil conservation program with greater emphasis; strive to build up fertility reserves for emergency production", (8 colleges).

Copies of Mr. Ladd's report are available through the office of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, 1372 National Press Building, Washington, D. C.

*check* *circle*

CARTOGRAPHIC DIVISION  
MOVES TO BELTSVILLE

The Cartographic Division in Washington will begin to move from its present offices to new quarters at Beltsville, Maryland. The Map Control and Map Compilation Sections will move on October 15, Mr. J. M. Snyder, Chief of the Division says, with the Aerial Surveys and Reproduction, and the Inspection Sections, together with the Division Office following about February 1.

The Division is now housed in three separate buildings and the move to Beltsville will facilitate inter-Division work. Special messenger service between Washington offices and Beltsville is contemplated.

Library Books Lost

Will anyone knowing of the whereabouts of the following library books please notify the Service Library in Washington:  
Man and the Earth by Nathaniel S. Shaler. 1905. 400 Shl  
Life and Environment by Paul B. Sears. 1939. 280 Sel2L

CONSERVATION OF YOUTH AND SOIL

The report of the Surgeon General's staff on the health of the CCC enrollees makes the following deduction: the CCC presents a great opportunity to improve and conserve one of the greatest natural resources of the United States--its young men.

What finer combination can be imagined than the conservation of both the nation's youth and soil in one program?

Don't write on Government publications!

Personal names should not be affixed to Government publications acquired for official use. To do so is in violation of U. S. Statutes at Large (Vol. 20, p. 171, chapter 317):

"That any person who shall steal, wrongfully deface, injure, mutilate, tear, or destroy any book, pamphlet, or manuscript, or any portion thereof...which is the property of the United States, shall be held guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall, when the offense is not otherwise punishable by some statute of the United States, be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, and by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than twelve months, or both, for every such offense."

COLOMBIAN VISITS SCS-CCC CAMP

The following article is reprinted from the August 31 issue of Happy Days:

"Jorge Ancizar Sordo, chief of chemical research, Colombia, S.A., visited Co. 1694 at the request of his government. This South American republic is interested in the work being done by the CCC and the Soil Conservation Service.

"After inspecting the Pine Bluff demonstration watershed where contour strip cropping and terracing are being carried out, Dr. Sordo predicted his government would send other scientists to investigate the program of the Soil Conservation Service more fully than he was able to do.

"The CCC program could well be copied by Colombia, Dr. Sordo said, as he praised the organization."

LAND CLASSIFICATION  
CONFERENCE

A national conference on Land Classification to be held at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., October 10 to 12 is announced in the Journal of the American Society of Agronomy.

Attention will be given to theories and technics of land classification.

FIRST SHOWING OF REA FILM

A new motion picture portraying rural electrification, "Power and the Land", was shown publicly for the first time at St. Clairsville, Ohio, August 31, before an audience including the farm people who constitute its entire cast. The film was made for REA in the summer of 1939 on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. William Parkinson, near St. Clairsville. The Parkisons are members of the Belmont Electric Cooperative, which recently brought electricity for the first time to more than 1500 farm families in five Ohio Counties.

DEVICE TESTS SOIL MOISTURE

Measuring moisture in the soil by means of an electric current was demonstrated at the Detroit meeting of the National Shade Tree Conference, by Dr. Newton L. Partridge of Michigan State College, says Science Service, August 30. The device consists of a block of gypsum, in which a pair of electrodes is embedded. This is set in the soil, in such a way that soil moisture passes into the gypsum. The more moisture the soil is able to deliver to the block, the lower its resistance to the passage of an electric current becomes. This makes it possible to calculate the amount of water available for plant use directly from the galvanometer dial.

PRINTERS' INK

An unnumbered publication entitled "Conserving Farm Land" by Tom Dale, SCS Region 6 and W. A. Ross of the Office of Education, is just off the press. The publication was prepared for the Office of Education, Department of Interior, as organized teaching material on "planning for soil-erosion control, water conservation, and efficient land use."

FARM-PLANNING MEETINGS

A series of test meetings were held recently on conservation-planned farms in Contra Costa, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma Counties, California, writes R. B. Cozzens, State Coordinator, as a result of plans worked out by Government officials for closer local cooperation between farmers and the various Government agencies.

Members of the Farm Credit Administration, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Farm Security Administration, Extension Service, State Division of Fish and Game, Agricultural Commissioners, Soil Conservation Service, together with county farm advisors, attended the meetings.

Representatives of the various bureaus presented an actual or theoretical work-program for the particular farm where meetings were held. As a result, these plans are now being analyzed in an effort to prepare an agenda for similar meetings to be held in practically all of the remaining counties of the State.